

**AMENDMENTS AND REMARKS**

The following amendments and remarks are responsive to the USPTO communication in the above-identified application, mailed on May 17, 2005.

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her time and attention in the Examiner's interview held in her office on August 29, 2005. The matters discussed and the demonstration regarding the distinctions between sized and unsized cellulosic webs, as set forth in the Interview Summary (Paper No. 20050829), will be addressed in this response.

In the specification, paragraph [0001] and the Abstract have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. (In both instances, in the last line of each, the word "side" before "salt-treated side" was removed as an unintended iteration of "side.")

Claims 1-14 were pending in this application. Claims 1-7 remain in this application. Claims 8-14, previously withdrawn, are now cancelled hereby.

Remaining claims 1-7 stand as rejected for the reasons stated in the Detailed Action attached to the Office Action Summary (PTOL-326) mailed with the USPTO communication. It is noted that independent claim 1 is amended hereby both to conform to the Jepson claim format of including so much of the claimed process as is known in the prior art in the claim preamble and limiting that which the applicants consider to be the subject matter of their invention after reciting "wherein the improvement comprises" and to limit the claimed "cellulosic-based paper substrate" to such substrate that "is a resin saturable paper not treated for sizing."

In her consideration of the patentability of remaining claims 1-7, the Examiner is advised that her presumption is correct in that the subject matter of the claims 1-7 were commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made. Therefore, applicants are relieved of any obligation under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to point out any particular inventors and invention dates of any individual or groups of remaining claims, and the Examiner is relieved of considering the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and any potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable for obviousness over US Patent No. 3,215,579 to Hagen in view of US Patent No. 2,229,621 to Bradner. In stating the rejection, the Examiner notes that Hagen teaches a release sheet "comprising a cellulosic based paper substrate (col. 3, line 14) with a salt treatment of at least one surface of the substrate during formation of the substrate via the application to the surface of an aqueous solution comprising at least one water-soluble multivalent salt (col. 3, lines 52-57) in an amount sufficient to provide a solids content of about 0.01% to about 3% by weight based upon the dry weight of the substrate (col. 3, lines 57-62) and the substrate is coated after formation on at least one salt-treated surface with a film comprising at least one salt of alginic acid (col. 3, lines 65-70)." This much of Hagen's disclosure appears to teach the applicants' invention. Then, however, the Examiner notes that "Hagen discloses providing a sizing compound of a salt solution to the paper substrate (col. 3, lines 51-62)." This is where Hagen diverges and distinguishes from the applicants' claimed invention. The Examiner then remarks, "It is unclear at what point of the formation of the paper substrate the sizing compound is applied, however it appears the sizing is applied once the paper substrate is in a web form."

While the Examiner is correct as to the point the sizing is applied, she misstates any lack of clarity. See col. 4, lines 65-70. In *Example I* of Hagen, bridging columns 4 and 5, the patentee teaches that "A roll of standard saturating-type kraft paper...was sized on one side from a bath containing a 10% aqueous calcium chloride solution by passing the paper, at a speed of 175 feet per minute, between the pickup roller and a nip roller in a single gravure printing unit." **This clearly is not "on-machine" during formation of the web.** The issue as to patentability of the applicants' claims (1-7), relates not to where any sizing may be applied to the paper substrate, but as to the fact that no sizing at all is applied to the substrate claimed by the applicants, which makes all the difference as to the release sheet described by Hagen and that claimed by the applicants. Because applicants' claimed application of the "aqueous solution comprising at least one water-soluble multivalent salt" occurs "on-machine," and not through a bath, the application conditions are such that the temperature and movement of the ambient air during application result in essentially evaporation of the water from the applied solution to cause the salt to remain on the surface of the sheet and not be carried through the thickness of the

paper, precluding any sizing to occur. In the demonstration in the Examiner's office during the aforementioned Examiner's interview, it was observed that resin saturable paper (unsized so it can be "resin saturable") readily permits water to flow through the thickness of the paper. Therefore, Hagen's prior art teaching of bathing the already formed sheet in off-machine equipment tells one skilled in the art to "size" the paper sheet before applying alginic acid to keep it on the sheet surface to act as a release sheet during a lamination process. Hagen goes even further from the applicant's invention in the next step of his *Example I*. Beginning at column 5, line 6, Hagen teaches impregnating the dry, sized paper throughout with a commercially available phenolformaldehyde resin solution and drying before the dried paper is finally coated on its sized side with a wet sodium alginate film. This is not the applicants' claimed invention. Also, it is respectfully submitted that the teaching of the requirement for or sizing the paper substrate and a requirement for impregnating the paper substrate with a resin do not suggest the applicants' claimed invention.

US Patent No. 4,263,073 to Jaisle, at column 2, lines 5-56, points out that "Only by incorporating a phenolic resin was Hagen able to produce a satisfactory release sheet." In the same column, at lines 62-66, Jaisle discloses his improved process of "first coating a paper web having a water absorption of at least 200 seconds with an aqueous solution of a water-soluble alkaline earth or earth metal salt, then coating the same surface with a film of a salt of alginic acid." Jaisle eliminates the resin impregnation step of Hagen, but by teaching his treatment of a paper web having a water absorption of at least 200 seconds, he limits his invention to a sized sheet. In the amended claim 1, the applicants neither employ a sized sheet nor treat the claimed resin saturable sheet in a way to result in sizing the sheet. Again referring to the demonstration during the aforementioned Examiner's interview, the Examiner was able to observe the extended time required for water to penetrate through the sized sheet. The fact that a sheet is sized or unsized, clearly, has a dramatic effect on how it receives and/or reacts to different types of liquids with which it comes into contact. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, instructed by at least the teachings of Hagen and Jaisle, would find it surprising and unexpected that the applicants's claimed lamination process using the release sheet described in claim 1 and the applicants' release sheet in new claim 15 performed as shown in the applicants

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disclosure, inasmuch as both Hagen and Jaisle teach the necessity of either sizing the paper substrate or using an already sized paper substrate.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended hereby, and the claims depending therefrom are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

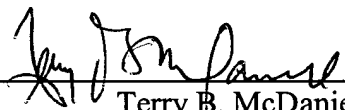
In view of the fact that Hagen was the primary reference in the rejection discussed about as well as the separately posed rejections of claim 2 and claim 6, it is respectfully submitted that, having successfully overcome (and thereby removed) the Examiner's reliance on the reference of Hagen in all rejections of claims, there is no need to discuss the remaining prior art support for said rejections.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this amendment and response. Should it be determined that additional fees are due and payable, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to the assignee's Deposit Account No. 23-1160.

Respectfully submitted,

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